

REMARKS

Claims 1-36 are pending in the present application. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-20 and 32-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, 35 U.S.C. § 102, and/or 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The Examiner has also objected to claims 21-23 and 30. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 23-31 are allowed. Applicants have amended claims 21, 23 and 30 and have canceled claims 1-20 and 32-36 without prejudice. No new matter has been entered. Accordingly, claims 21-31 are now pending in this application. In light of the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are most respectfully requested.

Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a). As claim 1 has been canceled herein without prejudice or waiver, the objection to the drawings is rendered moot.

Specification

The Examiner objected to the disclosure because of a typographical error on page 20, line 2. Applicants have corrected this error.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 1, 23 and 30 based on informalities in the claim language. Applicants have canceled claim 1 herein without prejudice or waiver, and have amended claims 23 and 30 as suggested by the Examiner.

The Examiner has also objected to claims 21-22 as being dependant upon rejected base claim 1. Applicants have amended claim 21 as suggested by the Examiner by rewriting them in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 1. Claim 22 ultimately depends from claim 21 and therefore include all of the limitations of claim 21.

Accordingly, it is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 21-23 and 30 are in condition for immediate allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 6, 8, 13, 15, 17, 32 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. While Applicants respectfully disagree with the merits of this rejection, to expedite allowance, claims 6, 8, 13, 15, 17, 32 and 36 have been canceled herein without prejudice or waiver, thereby rendering moot the rejection of these claims.

35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 14, 16-18 and 35-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Glenn, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 3,523,717). While Applicants respectfully disagree with the merits of this rejection, to expedite allowance, claims 1-3, 14, 16-18 and 35-36 have been canceled herein without prejudice or waiver, thereby rendering moot the rejection of these claims.

35 U.S.C. § 103

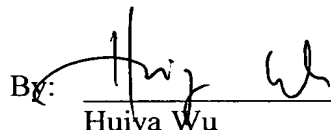
Claims 4-11, 15 and 32-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Glenn, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 3,523,717). Further, claims 12-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Glenn, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 3,523,717) in view of Dubin (U.S. Patent No. 6,278,546) or Altman (U.S. Patent No. 3,552,822). In addition, claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Glenn, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 3,523,717) in view of Abbott (U.S. Patent No. 5,999,281). Finally, claims 1-3, 14, 16, 18-19 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okuda (U.S. Patent No. 6,049,423) in view of Miyata (U.S. Patent No. 6,295,162). While Applicants respectfully disagree with the merits of these rejections, to expedite allowance, claims 1-16, 18-20 and 32-34 have been canceled herein without prejudice or waiver, thereby rendering moot the rejection of these claims.

Conclusion

Each of the issues raised by the Examiner has been addressed. It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Passage to issuance is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below if he believes that the progress of this application could be advanced. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,
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